



Bosnia UPDATE

A Summary of Developments Affecting the Balkans and the Deployment of U.S. Armed Forces by the Staff of the Committee on National Security.

Lloyd Spence, Chairman

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Quotes of the Week:

"Today we see an absence of war...sadly we do not have peace."
-- *Admiral Leighton Smith,*
7/30/96

"There is no successor mission....We're not anticipating any such thing."
-- *Vice President Al Gore, on the future role of U.S. forces in Bosnia,* 7/25/96

"I would say that in general terms, the continued participation of the United States in some fashion is the precondition by many countries for their continued involvement."
-- *Lt. General Patrick Hughes, on importance of U.S. ground troops as part of any post-December IFOR force in Bosnia,* 7/24/96

"We are here because we are not satisfied with the degree of compliance we are seeing, particularly on the part of the Bosnian Serbs."
-- *U.S. diplomat Richard C. Holbrooke,* 7/17/96

"We don't need as many troops as we have now. We need less troops with a different mandate."
-- *Hasan Muratovic, Bosnian Prime Minister,* 7/18/96

In Bosnia and the Balkans:

IFOR Commander Admiral Leighton Smith leaves Bosnia and turns over his command of the peace implementation force to U.S. Admiral Thomas Lopez.

NATO's policy-making body authorizes preparations for the new command arrangement in Bosnia to oversee the final stages of the peace implementation operation.

The first contingent of Bosnian soldiers begin training in the United Arab Emirates with equipment donated to the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

According to British NATO sources, Serb officials are forcing Serb refugees to sign pledges that they will vote for Radovan Karadzic's Serbian Democratic Party before local Serb officials will allow them to obtain food and other humanitarian aid.

Iran grants \$50 million in "post-war reconstruction aid" to Bosnia, and promises additional funds which could total \$100 million.

Reports indicate large numbers of Serbs continue to flee Kosovo, near Albania.

One NATO-Nordic Brigade soldier is killed and two are injured when their armored vehicle overturns in Sarajevo.

NATO suspends air-to-ground training exercises when a U.S. F/A-18 combat aircraft inadvertently drops a 500-pound bomb narrowly missing Camp McGovern, a U.S. Army base near Brcko in northeastern Bosnia.

In the eastern city of Pale, Bosnian Serb police chief Malko Koroman threatens to kidnap and attack U.N. police units in an effort to protect Serbian president Radovan Karadzic.

Former U.S. diplomat and architect of the Dayton peace accord Richard Holbrooke returns to the Balkans to apply pressure on leaders for the ousting of Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic. Holbrooke and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic meet but the dialogue is considered "inconclusive."

Robert Frowick, head of the Bosnia operation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), postpones the beginning of the election campaign because indicted war criminal Radovan Karadzic is still the only candidate.

Retiring NATO commander U.S. Adm. Leighton Smith projects a smooth election process if indicted war criminals remain free through the elections. "You have to look whether the net result is good or bad. It's not like knocking on the door and handing someone a warrant and saying, 'Come with me.'" He fears unrest will erupt if Karadzic and Mladic are arrested.

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Bosnian Serbs tell investigators they will not permit them to work on mass graves around Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia. UN spokesman Alex Ivanko says "We believe it is unacceptable for any side to obstruct humanitarian projects of such a nature."

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Bosnian Croats in Mostar boycott the upcoming September elections after a local election results in a Muslim victory of 21-17 seats. American, European, Croatian and Bosnian officials are meeting to resolve the boycott. UN spokesman Alex Ivanko says, "There has been an escalation in the violence in the past week. These are very worrying developments."

In Washington:

Lieutenant General Patrick Hughes, Director of Defense Intelligence Agency warns Congress that Bosnia is likely to return to civil war unless an international peacekeeping force remains there beyond the December completion date possibly stretching well into the next year.

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U.S. State Department officials contend that the people of Bosnia are still "very, very skeptical" that the Dayton peace accord can be fully implemented and stability maintained.

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The Department of the Army announces that the first of approximately 4,200 Army Reservists and National Guard soldiers who were called to active duty in December for Operation Joint Endeavor are coming home by August 1.

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Despite repeated statements by Secretary of Defense William Perry that he would support U.S.

participation in a post-IFOR successor force, Vice President Al Gore expresses confidence that there will be no successor force and that the White House believes that the U.S. mission will be complete by the end of this year.

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News reports claim that the State Department is insisting that Slobodan Milosevic use his influence to remove political and other obstacles from the implementation of the Dayton peace accord.

In Germany:

Four hundred U.S. Military Police prepare for departure to Bosnia with 200 HMMWVs (High-Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles). They will join the current U.S. MP force of 200 and will replace elements of the 1st Armored Division that will return home to Germany.

In The Hague:

The War Crimes Tribunal begins its tenth week of hearing testimony in the trial of Bosnian Serb Dusan Tadic. He is accused of crimes against humanity including murder and torture at the Omarska prison camp.

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An official Bosnian Serb delegation arrives for talks about crimes against Serbs. It is headed by Justice Minister Marko Arsovic, who says, "I have brought new evidence of atrocities committed against Bosnian Serbs; and I'll be looking for explanations from the Tribunal about why they have not been investigated." Also in attending is Igor Pantelic, who represents indicted war criminal and Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic. Pantelic attempts to defend Karadzic, is excluded from the courtroom and later resigns.

Compliance Watch:

An agreement reached by U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke and top Serbian government officials removes Radovan Karadzic from all political activities permanently.

United Nations officials report that the Bosnian police are evicting dozens of people, mainly Serbs, from apartments that once belonged to the Yugoslav Army.

Reports indicate that Serb police forces continue to intimidate and violate the human rights of civilians in Doboj in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

A Roman Catholic church is firebombed and set ablaze by arsonists in Sarajevo, which remains split by animosity between Croats and Muslims.

Reports from Belgrade claim that the Croats have made the return of Serb refugees to Serbia, as is called for under the Dayton Accord, impossible.

Gunmen dressed as soldiers fire on a French patrol near the Sarajevo Airport injuring one soldier.

A bomb destroys an unattended United Nations truck parked outside a police monitor's office and housing quarters in Vlasenica, in eastern Bosnia.

Previous issues and additional background information on any of the items in this UPDATE may be obtained from Tom Donnelly (x65372), David Trachtenberg (x60532), Will Marsh (x56045) on the staff of the House National Security Committee.